

Amendments to the Claims:

1-24. (canceled)

25. (currently amended): A method of embedding auxiliary information in data, wherein once embedded with the auxiliary information the data comprises embedded data, and wherein the auxiliary information is not lost with compression of the embedded data, the embedded data initially comprising a non-compressed form including the auxiliary information embedded therein, said method comprising:

- (a) retrieving the auxiliary information from the non-compressed form of the embedded data;
- (b) compressing the non-compressed form of the embedded data; and
- (c) embedding the retrieved auxiliary information in the compressed embedded data, whereby the compressed embedded data comprises the auxiliary information embedded therein.

26. (previously presented): A method of embedding auxiliary information in data, wherein the auxiliary information is not lost with decompression of the data from a compressed form to a non-compressed form, and wherein the compressed form includes the auxiliary information, said method comprising:

- (a) retrieving the auxiliary information from the compressed form of the data;
  - (b) decompressing the compressed form to yield the non-compressed form;
- and

(c) steganographically embedding the auxiliary information in the non-compressed form whereby the non-compressed form of the data comprises the auxiliary information embedded therein.

27-28. (canceled)

29. (previously presented): The method of claim 25 wherein the compression comprises encoding.

30. (canceled)

31. (canceled)

32. (previously presented): The method of claim 26 wherein the decompressing comprises decoding.

33. (previously presented): A method comprising:  
retrieving auxiliary information from a data signal, wherein the auxiliary  
information is encoded in the data signal, and wherein the auxiliary information is  
retrieved from the data signal while the data signal comprises a non-compressed form;  
compressing the data signal; and  
embedding the retrieved auxiliary information in the compressed data signal,  
wherein the compressed data signal comprises the retrieved auxiliary information.

34. (previously presented): The method of claim 33, wherein the retrieved  
auxiliary information is steganographically retrieved from the non-compressed data  
signal.

35. (previously presented): The method of claim 34, wherein the retrieved  
auxiliary information is embedded in the compressed data signal in the form of a  
steganographic watermark.

36. (currently amended): The method of claim 33 wherein the data signal  
includes the auxiliary information embedded therein during said compressing step.

37. (previously presented): A method comprising:

retrieving auxiliary information from a data signal, wherein the auxiliary information is encoded in the data signal, and wherein the auxiliary information is retrieved from the data signal while the data signal comprises a compressed form;

decompressing the compressed data signal to yield a de-compressed data signal;

and

embedding the retrieved auxiliary information in the de-compressed data signal, wherein the decompressed data signal comprises digital data, whereby the de-compressed data signal comprises the auxiliary information embedded therein.

38. (previously presented): The method of claim 37, wherein the retrieved auxiliary information is steganographically embedded in the de-compressed data signal.

39. (previously presented): The method of claim 37, wherein the retrieved auxiliary information is embedded in the de-compressed data signal in the form of a steganographic watermark.

40. (previously presented): A method comprising:

retrieving auxiliary information from an original data signal, wherein the auxiliary information is encoded in the original data signal;

performing a transformation on the original data signal to create a transformed data signal; and

embedding the retrieved auxiliary information in the transformed data signal,  
wherein the transformed data signal comprises the retrieved auxiliary information.

41. (previously presented): The method of claim 40 wherein the auxiliary  
information is steganographically encoded in the original data signal.

42. (previously presented): The method of claim 41 wherein the auxiliary  
information is steganographically embedded in the transformed data signal.

43. (previously presented): The method of claim 40 wherein the auxiliary  
information is steganographically embedded in the transformed data signal.

44. (previously presented): The method of claim 40 wherein the transformation  
causes the auxiliary information not to be detectable from the transformed data signal.

45. (previously presented): The method of claim 44 wherein the auxiliary  
information is steganographically retrieved from the original data signal.

46. (previously presented): The method of claim 45 wherein the auxiliary  
information is steganographically embedded in the transformed data signal.

47. (previously presented): The method of claim 44 wherein the auxiliary information is steganographically embedded in the transformed data signal.

48. (previously presented): The method of claim 40 wherein the embedding of the retrieved auxiliary information in the transformed data signal uses a robust embedding method for the transformed data signal that enables detection of the auxiliary information by a detector.

49. (previously presented): The method of claim 48 wherein the auxiliary information is steganographically embedded in the transformed data signal.

50. (previously presented): The method of claim 49 wherein the auxiliary information is steganographically retrieved from the original data signal.

51. (previously presented): A method of embedding auxiliary information in data in which the auxiliary information is not lost with decompression of the data from a compressed form to a non-compressed form, wherein the compressed form includes the auxiliary information, said method comprising:

- (a) retrieving the auxiliary information from the compressed form;
- (b) decompressing the compressed form to yield the non-compressed form;  
and
- (c) embedding the auxiliary information in the non-compressed form, wherein

the non-compressed form of the data comprises the auxiliary information embedded therein, and wherein the non-compressed form including the auxiliary information embedded therein comprises digital data.

52. (previously presented): The method of claim 40 wherein the auxiliary information is encoded in the original data signal as header data.

53. (previously presented): The method of claim 43 wherein the auxiliary information is encoded in the original data signal as header data.